

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for the preparation of nano- or microparticles containing an active substance embedded in a polymer matrix, comprising the steps of:
 - a) effecting precipitation of an active substance in a solution which comprises a polymer dissolved in an organic solvent to obtain a suspension of the active substance,
 - b) mixing the obtained suspension with an aqueous surfactant solution and solidifying the polymer to obtain a suspension of nano- or microparticles which contain an active substance.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein precipitation of step a) is accomplished by combining a smaller amount of a first solvent L1 dissolving the active substance with a larger amount of a second organic solvent L2 dissolving the polymer, and wherein L2 is a non-solvent for the active substance.
3. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein L1 and L2 are fully or partially miscible.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2-~~or 3~~, wherein L1 and L2 are combined under stirring.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the organic solvent(s) used in the method is (are) partially soluble in water.
6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the suspension of the nano- or microparticles is obtained in step b) by adding the aqueous surfactant solution to the suspension of step a).
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the volume fraction of the aqueous surfactant solution ranges between 60 and 80% of the

aqueous and organic solvents combined in step b).

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the active substance is a protein or a peptide.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein the polymer is a poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide).

10 - 11. (cancelled)